

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph 16 of the application as filed with the following paragraph:

Further, the polyolefin pellet that can be cross-linked and foamed, used in the present invention, is produced by extruding polyolefin that can be cross-linked and foamed into a rod with the size of 2 to 10 mm in diameter, providing a 0.5 to 5 mm thick plastic covering on the surface of the rod, compressing the rod with the covering in a molten state, and cutting the rod with a cutter having an end of an acute angle in a manner that the joined section being 0.3 mm or greater, more preferably, within a range from 0.3 to 3.0 mm, in thickness, ~~and cutting the rod thereby~~ enabling both ends of the plastic to be joined.